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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Utah Coal Regulatory Program

August 18, 2011

TO: Internal File

THRU: James Owen, Team Lead 

FROM: April A. Abate, Environmental Scientist III  8/18/2011

RE: Mine Map and Page 7-32 Replacement, Hidden Splendor Resources, Horizon Mine, Permit #C007/0020 and Task #3877

SUMMARY:

On July 20, 2011, Hidden Splendor Mine (the Permittee) submitted a response to the Division's June 28 2011 letter indicating that updated information was needed regarding well HZS-95-3. This well was evaluated during the 2010 Annual Report review by the Division and found to be no longer operational due to the area being mined out. The Division requested that the well be replaced or demonstrate why data are no longer necessary to meet the objectives of the groundwater monitoring plan. The Division stated that either the well was to be abandoned in accordance with R645-301-731.215-765, or if used as a borehole for ventilation, that the MRP be updated accordingly.

The Permittee submitted their response on July 20, 2011 with updates to page 7-32 regarding the current status of well HG-95-3 and their intent to keep the well for the purpose of ventilation, shaft and other underground mining-related projects until final reclamation takes place.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS:

GENERAL CONTENTS

HYDROLOGIC INFORMATION

Regulatory Reference: 30 CFR Sec. 773.17, 774.13, 784.14, 784.16, 784.29, 817.41, 817.42, 817.43, 817.45, 817.49, 817.56, 817.57; R645-300-140, -300-141, -300-142, -300-143, -300-144, -300-145, -300-146, -300-147, -300-148, -301-512, -301-514, -301-521, -301-531, -301-532, -301-533, -301-536, -301-542, -301-720, -301-731, -301-732, -301-733, -301-742, -301-743, -301-750, -301-761, -301-764.

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Analysis:

Transfer of Wells

Well HZ-95-3 was identified as a non-operational well in the 2010 annual report. The Division requested an update in the MRP as to the status of the well. The purpose of the well was to monitor "early assessments of mining impacts". According to the Division's Water Quality database, this well has been reported as dry since 2002. The company reported that this area has been mined out.

The company provided updated text to the MRP indicating they would like to postpone abandoning the well until final reclamation and that the well will continue to be used for ventilation, shaft, and other underground mining-related projects. Furthermore, the well should be removed from the groundwater monitoring program since the area it was screened in has been mined out.

Findings:

The Permittee intends to continue to maintain the well for the purposes of ventilation, shaft and other underground mining-related projects. Rules R645.301.631 and R645-301, 731.215 and -.765 do not prohibit this use.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approval is recommended. The Permittee should also remove HZ-95-3 from their active groundwater monitoring program.